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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

DISCIPLINING OF TURKISH LABOR LEADER

[Comment: The following report concerns disciplinary action being taken against Sureyya Birol, one of Turkey's most prominent labor leaders, by the Istanbul Sendikalar Birliği (Union of Istanbul Syndicates). Birol is secretary general of the union and is also president of the Cibali Tutun ve Sigara Sanayii Isçileri Sendikası (Cibali Tobacco and Cigarette Industry Workers Syndicate) and a member of the administrative committee of the Türkiye Muskirat Tutun ve Yardimci Isçi Sendiklari Federasyonu (Federation of Turkish Intoxicants, Tobacco, and Auxiliary Worker Syndicates). He also served as one of the federation's delegates to the first Turk-Is (Confederation of Turkish Workers Syndicates) congress, held in Izmir in early September.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

En Son Dakika of 29 October reported that at a meeting on 27 October, the administrative committee of the Union of Istanbul Syndicates voted to bring Sureyya Birol before the union's disciplinary court. According to the paper, the vote was nine in favor, six against, and three abstentions, while Seyfi Demirsoy, the union's president, did not participate in the voting. The action, according to the paper, was the result of a motion offered by Seref Hivel in connection with Birol's sudden trip to Switzerland at the beginning of October, without first informing the union of the reasons for the trip or the meeting he was to attend.

The paper stated that Birol had appeared at the union meeting to defend himself, identifying the meeting in Switzerland as the Moral Rearmament Conference and claiming that his invitation had arrived so late that he had lacked time to inform the union of his departure. (1) Gece Postasi on the same day reported that various rumors concerning Birol were circulating in

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Istanbul syndicate circles to the effect that Birol had continued to receive his factory wages while he was abroad, that it had proved impossible to locate a letter which Birol claimed the Labor Ministry had sent to Turk-Is and one sent by Herman Patteet [ICTU representative], and that Birol had received 500 lira from the Argentine labor attache to help him publish a newspaper.(2)

On 30 October, Vatan published the following statement on the affair, which had been made by Ahmet Muslu, a member of the union's administrative committee:

"Birol left suddenly for Geneva on 2 October, where he participated in a Moral Rearmament meeting. We learned of this on 27 October, when we invited him to explain his actions. He could give no satisfactory explanation for this trip, which he made without informing the union or Turk-Is. He said that it was an anti-Communist meeting, that he had received the invitation only on 1 October, and that he had left immediately. Birol pointed out that there were also two Democrat Party worker representatives from Ankara [identified as Turhan Akyurek and Mehmet Alpay in the 14 October issue of Gece Postasi] and that all three had been sent via government channels. The only point which interests us is that he left his post without warning and without obtaining permission."

Vatan also said that syndicate circles had commented that it would have been impossible for Birol to have made all necessary travel arrangements and to have completed passport formalities in a single day.(3)

SOURCES

1. Istanbul, En Son Dakika, 29 Oct 52
2. Istanbul, Gece Postasi, 29 Oct 52
3. Istanbul, Vatan, 30 Oct 52

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